GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3958
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2009
POWERS TO PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to give more powers and funds to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the number of requests received from the State Governments including Kerala in this regard, State-wise;

(c) whether the Twelfth Finance Commission has made recommendations in this regard and any policy is being worked out to make Panchayati Raj Institutions,(PRIs) successful; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government for effective implementation of the said policy?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ(Dr. C. P. JOSHI)

(a) to (d): Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) being local body, is a State subject.States are mandated to frame legislations and rules thereunder and issue orders which may provide for powers as well as funds.

The Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) has, inter alia, recommended a grant of Rs. 20,000 crore for Panchayats to augment the consolidated fund of the States for the period 2005-10. Union Ministry of Finance releases grants-in-aid to the State Governments for PRIs as per framed guidelines in installments. States request Union Ministry of Finance for release of installments of TFC grant after completion of the procedural requirement prescribed in the guidelines.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also taken various measures to strengthen Panchayats through the Backward Regions Grand Fund Programme, Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana, Panchayat Empowerment & Accountability Incentive Scheme, Panchayat Mahila & Yuva Shakti Abhiyan and Rural Business Hubs. PRIs are also accorded roles in various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.